



HEADQUARTERS
COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09302-1400

Policy Memorandum #1

CJTF7-CG

20 February 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: CJTF-7 Command Policy Letter, Vehicle Safety

1. Safe motor vehicle operations have proven to be a significant challenge for all levels of command. Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom the loss of lives and equipment, and the numerous injuries, from both tactical and non-tactical have contributed to a decrease in combat fighting capabilities. This trend is unacceptable. Leaders can and must, utilize the tools at their disposal to reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents and injuries. These tools include:

a. Risk Management - Conduct risk assessments utilizing mission, enemy, terrain, troops, time available, and civilian considerations (METT-TC) to identify and assess hazards. Don't stop there! Develop controls for identified hazards and make risk decisions. The decision may be to change, alter, or cancel the mission. Implement controls to minimize risks and supervise the effectiveness of controls. Adjust as necessary.

b. Seatbelts - The use of seatbelts is mandatory. No one has the authority to waiver the wearing of seatbelts. Inoperable seatbelts should be repaired. If the repairs cannot be readily made, leaders should mitigate risk by restricting use of the vehicle based on mission requirements. There have been no documented cases in which troops have been injured as a result of being unable to respond to hostile action because they were restrained by seat belts. However, there are many documented cases of injuries and fatalities from not wearing seatbelts.

c. Kevlar Helmet - All soldiers and DOD civilians operating or riding in tactical and non-tactical vehicles shall wear the Kevlar helmet with the chinstrap properly secured. This requirement applies throughout the AO while conducting operations both on and off post. Any exception to this requirement for on post operations will be made by the senior facility Commander.

d. Fragmentation Protective Vest - All troops operating or riding in tactical vehicles and non-tactical vehicles off post will wear the fragmentation protective vest. This requirement applies throughout the AOR


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e. Convoy Safety Briefing - Convoy commanders will ensure that a safety briefing is provided to all personnel within their respective convoy. At a minimum, the briefing will address: weapon status and rules of engagement, route of travel, known hazards, break down procedures, how to call for assistance in the event of an emergency, emergency medical procedures, convoy speed and spacing, as well as post accident procedures, and lost vehicle procedures.

2. The Point of Contact for this memorandum is the CJTF-7 Safety Director at DSN 318-822-1429, or DVNT 550-2644.

3. The CJTF-7 Command Policy Letter about Vehicle Safety, dated 1 January 2004, is hereby rescinded. This policy remains in effect until superseded or rescinded.


RICARDO S. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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